

THE SECOND PART

One incidence in our life was very funny but might have been very serious. This is what happened. We were just through with our dinner, I was without a maid at that time so mother and I were in the kitchen washing up the dishes. Pa was still in the dining room playing with the children. Just then he heard a scraping at the front door. He went to the door and found a ^{a man by another name.} man standing there who asked if ~~some~~ ^{any} man lived there. My husband said no, he knew no one by that name so he turned to me asking if I knew any one by that name. I had come out of my kitchen by that time. I said no, I did not know any one by that name but ~~if~~ ^{who had} he would inquire of my neighbor ^{in their home.} they have boarders and ~~he might live there.~~ Just then I looked into my parlor and there I saw ^{another} a man. My expression must have warned my husband for he turned and saw that man also. Well, he did a very brave but foolish thing. He got hold of the two men and said, "I will hold you two men until I find out what you were doing in my house." The children ^{and the} immediately raised ~~such~~ a howl that ~~it made us all very nervous.~~ These men said, "For God's sake, make those children quit". ^{one} At the same time, reaching to his back pocket for his pistol. My husband saw ^{him and before I realized what he was about to do, his} this so he said, "Here, Annie, hold this man while I attend to the other one." There I was holding the one robber while my husband gave one blow to the other ~~man~~ which laid him out flat. ~~My~~ ^{after} Mother, in the mean time called out for help. Our next door neighbor, an Irishman, Pat Rooney by name, came in to help us. Well, Pat and my husband took the two men to the patrol box and had these two men locked up. The next day it all came out in the papers that not only ^{did} ~~was~~ Mr. Davis catching two thieves in ^{his} ~~our~~ house, but that Mrs. Davis was ~~also~~ a brave woman because she helped her husband by holding the one ~~man~~ while Mr. Davis attended to the other. They were really experienced thieves because we found a bottle of chloroform on our hall ^{door} tree and in the

station. On being searched, two revolvers were found on them. That night
I took sick with a nervous chill and was sick for about a week, ^{as the result of the experience} We
received many letters from our out-of-town friends and associates commending
us on our bravery, but advising us not to be so brave again. One of the
^{robbers} ~~men~~ was quite young. The next day his old mother and father came to us
asking Pa not to prosecute his case against him ^{because} as he was ~~still~~ very young
^{and had fallen} ~~but~~ he got into bad company. Pa promised these old people that he would
not press his case and he did not. ^{The young one} He was sent ~~away~~ to a reform school
for about a year but the other one got three years because he was a noted
burglar and was caught red-handed.

omit

While living on Washington Street, there assuming the responsibility of conducting my home, taking care of my children, my dear mother and doing various things for my friends and neighbors, ~~also~~ ^{as well as} my Shule, I was asked by my doctor's wife, Mrs. Albert Blumberg, to become a member of the Columbia Council of Jewish Women. ~~It is~~ ^{that} now called the Council of Jewish Women. I felt ^{that} ~~that~~ was one organization that should be supported by all Jewish women. I used to attend the meetings which were ~~then~~ held in the old Temple on Ninth Street. I became very active and was soon placed on different committees. Very soon I was asked to write a paper on the Jewish Holidays, their meanings, customs and usages. I had been to a number of meetings and the papers that were read were so wishy-washy that I was not afraid to write such a paper. But I really did not know what I had undertaken. However, I did my best. I had my paper ready by the time of the meeting. ~~I must say that I wrote out~~ my paper, but I must confess that I had my son Allan polish it up. It was a good paper - I knew it was good. After a brief business session, the chairman called on me to read my paper. I looked around and saw a hall full of people, many were my friends but a greater number were women whom I knew only from the Council. Well, my paper caused quite a commotion. The chairman asked for remarks and it seemed that everybody wanted to speak, to say something. They thought it was ~~a wonderful paper~~. They discussed it from every angle. The paper seemed to have opened up their minds and their memories. The things they said were pathetic, some very foolish, some very ignorant. One lady remarked on the Blessing of the Sabbath ~~lights or rather~~ candles. She remember how her mother would put on a fine kerchief on her head before she lit and blessed the candles. Another woman said that she knew she should light the lights but did not know how,

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so she would light one candle and tell her two children that that was the Sabbath light. I was surprised at her telling such a thing for she was the first generation born in America. Her mother came from the old country *Germany* and she should have known better. I was greatly disappointed in her for she was a brilliant woman. Another remarked on the Pesach Seder; another remarked on the matzos, another on the shaffer on the Yom Kippor. Everybody had something to say on that wonderful paper. In closing the remarks, the president asked me to close the paper. I said, "Ladies, I feel that our Reform brethren will some day take back all they have given up." Just then a Mrs. Rosenberg asked me for my paper to show to Rabbi Levy. I was frightened. I said, "Oh, my paper is not good enough for the Rabbi." But she insisted so I gave her the paper. I have read this paper over not so long ago, after forty years. I must say that my prophecy was good, for today we see our Reform pulpit more and more religious. They are now *becoming* teaching the Hebrew in the Sunday Schools and they will bring back all the old traditional customs and usages, and the Orthodox will find they can be as frum and religious here in America as they were in their homes in the old country. Mrs. Hugo Rosenberg, who really was the founder of the Council, said to me, "Mrs. Davis, you surely are not an Orthodox, are you?" "Yes, I am, I belong to the Beth Hamedush Hagodal Shule." "Oh, but you can't be, you are so progressive." I laughed and said, "I don't see what my religious affiliations have to do with keeping me back from progress." "But there are not many like you, are there?" "Oh yes, there are. The trouble is you do not know them so you think that if one is Orthodox one must be either ignorant or wild or poor and unkempt". I named a number of my friends to her. She then admitted that the prejudice of one Jew against another Jew is greater than that of the non-Jew just

Gormly

because they do not know their own people. "Well, you are different, Mrs. Davis, I know you are." I thought that maybe I am a little different. I had many friends among my non-Jewish people, both rich and poor. I remember when I was a little girl we had some very well-to-do friends, a whole family, Mr. and Mrs. Gormly. They lived in what is now Crafton. They had a family of children, Roy Gormly and Annie Gormly who married very well, a Mr. Wittengale. They liked us very well and would have us come to their home. Grandpa Gormly would meet us at the foot of the hill with a buggy after we got off the street car - horse cars they were then. Grandpa always had a great laugh at us. He would tease us saying, "Oh, ma, you should have seen Rachel and Annie hang around my neck". If we did not hang on to grandpa, we would have fallen out of that old buggy of his. We always had to have supper with them. "Now children, don't be afraid to eat, everything is made with butter." Sure enough there was no meat at any meal when we were there. I kept up my friendship with one of the daughters long after I was married. Besides, I was always very friendly with a family of Mrs. Young, Mrs. Flack, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Pete McGee and Mrs. Pete O'neil and many others. I think that it is good to be friendly with other kinds of people. One gets another view of life. I could tell many stories about my non-Jewish friends and maybe I will later on. Now I must go back to my growth because all this time I was really growing. I was a great reader. I read all of Dumas' works. I read many books and I always read the daily papers. Even now at the age of seventy-five, I can not begin the day before I read the morning paper. I claim that if one reads the daily paper intelligently, one can acquire a liberal education.

Times were different then. Women, about to be confined, ^{used} to go to hospitals. Friends and neighbors helped them at home and I had my share of assisting at births too. One day

Well, after doing many acts of loving kindness such as making collections, helping the poor, assisting many young mothers at the birth of their babies.

I must tell about one of these births for I was very young myself at the time.

I was visiting one of my young girl friends who was a wonderful piano player.

~~After being with her a little while~~ I saw that she was worried about something ^{and asked} ~~and said~~, "Tell me, Lizzie, what is the matter with you?" She

answered me, "Well, I ^{don't} ~~do not~~ like to talk about my own mother but just now when my sister-in-law is sick and needs a woman, my mother ^{won't} ~~will not~~ go to

her and you know I can't go, I am a girl." I ~~sort of~~ understood what ~~was~~ ^{and volunteered} the matter. "Well, if I can be of any assistance, I will be glad to go over.", ^{I said}.

"Oh, do please go over to my brother's house. I know you can help them."

I knew her brother and his wife very well. He was a very fine man, highly

educated, but ~~not a great business man so that they were~~ ^{but} in very modest

circumstances and ^{so} could not afford a nurse. When I came in, the house was

in great disorder. The woman was very sick. She had two doctors - ^{there} ~~one was~~

a funny little man, Dr. Rubenstein, who always carried an umbrella, the

other a young brother-in-law who had just finished his medical studies.

They were walking the patient up and down the room. I saw that she could

hardly drag herself along, so I said, "Doctor, I think we ought to put the

patient to bed." "Well, maybe we should do so." So, I made up the bed, ^{and}

washed the patient's hands and face. She gave a great sigh of relief and

closed her eyes for a little while. Then the labor started. After an

hour or so her baby was born. I bathed the baby, ^{and} made the mother comfort-

able. She was very grateful. "What would I have done without you. Those

men did not know anything, they nearly killed me." How I knew what to do,

I don't know, but there I was taking the whole responsibility of a sick

woman and the rest of the family. I straightened up the room, made tea and gave a little refreshment to the patient and served tea to the whole family, for by that time the old mother-in-law ^{and} ~~came as well as~~ Lizzie ^{were there} ~~as well~~ the two doctors, ~~and the husband~~. I went home about one o'clock at night. My ~~dear~~ husband had gone to bed early so he did not worry about me very much, but when I came home, he said "For goodness sake, where were you." I told him my experience. Well, that was nothing new, for this same story I could repeat many, many times for even before this case I had already assisted my doctor in a number of child births.

Right here I must tell of a very serious case of pneumonia. They were neighbors of mine, ~~besides~~ I knew the man and his wife since I was a little girl. I went in to see what I could do to help the family. There I found the man very sick. His poor helpless wife could not handle him as he was a large, heavy man. So, I undertook to take care of him. There I did my first bit of real nursing. When he wanted to be raised, I would put his two arms around my neck then I would pull him up with my shoulders. I nursed him for a week. Mr. Reil did get better. How or through whose help I do not know, but he got well. omit

At the same time, and in the same neighborhood, a young Christian woman was confined with her first baby. Everything went well and the doctor left with a few instructions for the nurse when she came. A few hours later something happened to the young mother. My neighbor came running, "Come Mrs. Davis, something is wrong with Mrs. White." I ~~did not~~ ^{didn't} stop to think what ~~could~~ ^{I could do} I do, but I went. I sent for her doctor then got busy with the patient. I really do not know what I did, but I brought her around. By the time the doctor came, the patient was resting very

comfortably. The doctor ^{admitted that she had had a, and said to} ~~said that was a~~ narrow escape. ~~He said,~~
 "Nurse, you did very well." I ~~then~~ told him that I was not a nurse,
 just a neighbor. "Well, ^{you are} a good neighbor for if you were ^{were not} ~~not good~~
 Mrs. Clark and her baby would have fared very badly." After Mrs.
 Clark was up and about, the doctor told her ^{to} ~~that she~~ nurse the baby
 every three hours, ~~so~~ ^{she} would nurse him ~~about one minute or two~~ ^{a minute or two, he}
~~and he~~ would fall asleep, ^{and} she would lay him down, and then ^{because} ~~he~~ would
 start to cry. She would let him cry until the next feeding ~~time~~.
^{The same thing would happen all over again.}
~~Then again the baby would dose off at the breast after a minute.~~

This went on for weeks and the child was ^{losing} weight. Again I was
 called in to give my advice. "Mrs. Davis, you have such lovely
 babies, please come in and give Mrs. Clark some lessons on how to
 feed her baby." "How can I give her lessons, she has a doctor, why
 does he not instruct her." "Oh, he is an old batchlor, what does he
 know about babies." I went up to this young Christian woman and
 taught her day after day how to feed her baby, showed her that when
 he fell asleep at her breast she should wait a moment then wake him
 up and continue the nursing and to keep this up for twenty minutes
 or half an hour. It was hard on the mother at first but after a
 week or two she loved to sit and play with the baby while nursing
 him and soon he was a roly-poly. He grew to be a beautiful child.

Such acts and many others made me a reputation so that I was
 called in to do many things. How can I tell all the things that I did
 from time to time? But I must tell about a circumcision.

One day my sister said to me, "Annie, you will have to have a
 circumcision at your house." "For heavens sake, Ray, are you sane to

ask
 tell me such a thing." "Well, you see Annie, there is a young Jewish woman who comes in to my store. She ran away from her home in Germany ^{with} ~~with one of their neighbors.~~ He was a non-Jew. They came to America. ^{and now} This was in 1900, not just now. ^{now} They lived near my sister's home on Webster Avenue. When the baby ^{is} was about five or six months old, ^{and} the mother ^{has} became ^{because} ~~much~~ concerned ^{that} her baby ^{had} ~~was not~~ circumcized, nor given a Jewish name. She asked ^{me} my sister to help her. ^{and the} Her husband ^{he} ~~had~~ agreed to this ^{but} ~~did not~~ want to bother about it. So my sister passed this Mitzvah over to me. I did not know what to do so I went to the late Rabbi Sivitz to ask him ~~what was~~ my duty in this case. The Rabbi said according to the law this child should be circumcized ^{for} ~~as~~ a child of a Jewish mother, ~~it~~ belongs to the Jewish people. - ~~in fact~~. So, I arranged with the Rabbi, the Mohel and my doctor. The mother brought the baby to my home. ^{and in it} ~~There~~ the Mohel performed the circumcision. It was a very uncommon thing to do, ~~to a young mother who had~~ even for me who did so many fool hardy things, but it was worth while. The young mother was so friendless. She felt so guilty and along that when she found friends who helped her to ^{make her a} ~~have a~~ Jewish child with a Jewish name, ^{and then be able to} ~~and that she could~~ write to her mother and family in Germany, ^{she was} ~~it made her~~ so happy ^{that} it was very pitiful. And though I had taken a terrible responsibility, I ^{on myself} was satisfied. I baked a cake, and served wine and other refreshments. ^{just as I would as a 'Normal Birth'.} We spent a few hours together - the Rabbi, the doctor and the Mohel. They talked very interestingly ^{and we} ~~for~~ the doctor ^{had} ~~said~~ if this baby ^{had} ~~was~~ not circumcized religiously, he would have had an operation in another six months because he had puss ~~right~~ under the fore skin. Here were three

learned mentalking on many subjects. I, in listening, learned a great deal about religion, ~~medial and~~ physic, about personal and world experience. ~~A.~~ for they all realized what a great thing I had done. The doctor who was a busy man stayed first because he was interested and also because it was good to sit and exchange thoughts and ideas with learned and wise people. I kept the baby at my house all day until the doctor and the Mohel thought it safe to move ~~the baby~~ ^{him}.

The mother took the baby home. She was very happy. I kept in touch with her for many years, then I lost track of her. I

learned that they had moved away.

I kept on doing whatever ^{fell into} ~~came~~ ^{he done.} to my hands to do. I was always busy, I never ^{had} ~~spent~~ time to play cards, I never went to a matinee. I always had something to do and I always had a baby for my children came to me every two years. By that time I was expecting my third child. In connection with this event, I must tell how this third baby made me miss a very fine theatre party.

My brother came in from New York to visit us. He bought tickets to see one of our great actors. We did not go often to a show but when we did go it ^{was to see} ~~was~~ something good. I was ~~all~~ excited for I had not been out very much the whole summer. I looked over my clothes and hats. ^{and} ~~I~~ found that I would have to have one of my hats fixed. I went to my milliner to have my hat fixed. She looked at me and said, "I'll fix your hat but---- Here I must tell of the first beautiful quilt I made out of all kinds of patches. It was called a crazy quilt because the patches were placed any way without any pattern, only one had to have a sense of

color and a knack of sewing. It took a year to finish. I got it done just in time to use while I was in child-bed with this baby who came in time to keep me from seeing a beautiful play.----- "do you think you will wear it." "Of course I will wear it." But I really did not wear that hat for many weeks after. I was to have gone to this theatre party on Friday night. My baby was born Friday morning, God Bless him. He was a dear little baby, and he is a dear good man, son, husband and father. I got along very well. I was not very sick. I had a good nurse and ~~also~~ a good maid. Between them they looked after me so well that I gained so much weight, and about ~~later~~ when I started to go out, which was about six weeks after, I had ~~go out, I had~~ to get a new dress for I had gained many pounds. I always did crave for a new dress after every child birth. Everything went well for a little while, then one day I saw my little girl, Freda, who was just one day over two years old, did not look so well, ~~so~~ ^{and} I sent for the doctor. I thought she ~~had~~ ^{had} the measles but when the doctor came he took one look at the baby and said, "I am sorry, Mrs. Davis, your little girl has scarlet fever and diphtheria." There was an epidemic of that dreadul disease in our city at that time. Many children were sick. Two of my closest friends lost their little girls. ~~I was frantic and my husband was just as bad.~~ ^{My husband and I were frantic} I gave my little baby over to my maid and I settled down to nursing my sick little girl. Remember, we did not have all the preventive medicine that we have now. I took all the precautions that I could. I nursed my little girl night and day. She was very sick from the first. I asked the doctor to let me have a nurse, but he said, "No, the child is too young to have a stranger.

"She must not be excited. She must not be irritated. She ^{was} too sick to be given over to a strange woman." So, here I was hardly recovered from child birth, nursing my sick little girl. My family could hardly help me. They would look in at the baby from the doorway and leave. One day mother and my husband looked in on the baby and went away. My mother did not want to see the baby die and my poor distracted husband did not know how bad the child was. Neither did I for I was with her so much I could not see the change. I called for my maid. She came into the room, gave one scream and flew down stairs screaming. It was then that I realized the change in my little girl. I called the doctor. He came right over and gave her a change of medicine ~~which I had filled right away~~. I gave her a teaspoonful and she could not swallow it and started to choke. In my fright I turned her over and gently patted her back. She gagged and threw up all the membrane which the medicine had loosened. I gave her another teaspoon of medicine and laid her down. She fell asleep and I could see at once that she was better. When the doctor came an hour later, he said, "Your baby is better but you must not give up being very careful for there are many things that might happen." I took care of her for eight weeks before the doctor would let her stand for one minute on her own little feet. This was near Thanksgiving, ^{and} ~~so~~ when Thanksgiving came I felt ^{truly} ~~so~~ thankful to God. I had ~~so~~ much to be thankful for. I made a very nice Thanksgiving dinner for my family and one or two friends - we never ~~eat~~ alone. Just as we sat down, my little girl set up a howl. First my husband went up to see, then I went up, then

my brother and then my mother. We could not make the baby stop crying so I sent for the doctor. He came in, stood at the door and said, "Well, what is the matter?" The baby looked at him, stopped crying, smiled and turned to her bread and milk, ate it all and went to sleep. We had a very thankful but cold dinner.

As time went on we had our ups and downs. My husband became ambitious to become a merchant. He commenced to dislike his diamond *what kind* business - he had to deal with too many women. So he went to the other extreme and started a wholesale gents furnishing ~~goods~~ store. He made one mistake, he got himself the wrong partner - a young man *(She)* to whom he used to lend money once or twice a year and because this man *and honest business man* paid him back *he* thought he was fine. He made another mistake that men generally make: *he did* ~~they do~~ not confide in *his* ~~their~~ wives. My good man did not say anything to me until all arrangements were made. I asked my *him* ~~good man~~ why did you not tell me before *he* ~~you~~ made the arrangements. *because* I know I know Ike better than you know *he* him. But what was the use, all arrangements were made and we hoped all would be well. I felt very *uneasy* ~~bad~~ for I knew my husband, *as being* ~~who~~ was so honorable and *honest* ~~straight~~, *that he* could not think anybody else would be otherwise, but ~~he~~ soon found out *she* that ~~Ike was not that kind of a man~~. *they were* ~~He~~ started the business with a lie. ~~He~~ *was* to have invested share and share alike. Well, my husband had the money but when it came to his partner, there was no money. He said that when he went to New York his uncle would lend him money. He went to New York and immediately telegraphed to my husband to raise some more money because he had no uncle and no money. So my husband raised more money on our home in order to make good

the statement that Ike made to the business houses in New York. My poor husband got sick for a few days from worry, for he saw at once that his partner was not trustworthy. Well, he kept on for two years and finally he had to close up. Ike told him there were many ways ~~they could~~ ^{to} make money by going bankrupt. My husband said, "He will not go bankrupt, we will pay everybody every cent we owe," ~~which he~~ ^{and we were left} did, but ~~it left us~~ strapped. I will never forget the day he came home after he closed up shop. He stood in the middle of our dining room with his ~~two~~ hands in ~~the~~ back of him. "Well, what will I do now? I have no store, I have no collections, I have no diamonds ^{to spend}." "What will I do?" I saw that my good man was very much worried. I looked at him, "Barney, don't worry so much, you will be all right. We are well, ^{and} we are still young, I do not ask you for too much, nor will I ask you for the impossible. Just don't worry, take a day or two to think matters over and all will be well." ~~My dear husband~~ ^{He} took time to look over ^{the} ~~his~~ stock of diamonds that he still had. Then he went out to see some of his old trade in the diamond business. I am glad to say that the first day he made enough to keep us going for some time. Later he went to New York where his creditors were very happy to see him. They gave him all the credit he wanted for he had paid them every cent that he owed ~~them~~ when he started his other business. So he got all that he wanted and ^{more}. One day he asked one of his salesman, "How come you offer me so much goods?" "Well you see ^{The salesman answered,} Mr. Davis, we know you will not bite off more than you can swallow, ~~we~~ we can trust you." From that time on we are in the diamond business and thank God we always got along very well.

~~We lived nice~~. We set a high standard of life and Blessed be God we have kept that standard up. A time went on I gave birth to another baby. This baby did not come to me so easy. I was very sick - my nurse did not come when she should have come. My husband left in the morning after asking me how I felt. My mother also asked me how I was. I was still feeling very well. After giving lunch to my little ones, I became very ill ^{and} ~~and~~ I sent for the doctor. He was out so I sent for my sister. She thought she still had time. I could not reach my husband. I was getting very ill so I sent my maid for my friend and neighbor, Mrs. ^{Nelson} Willison. She stayed with me quite a while. I was very sick but at last my baby was born with only Mrs. ^{Nelson} Willison assisting me. Just as I was going into a nervous chill, the doctor came, then my husband, then my mother, then my sister, then at last the nurse. But I was too sick to know what was going on. However, with the help of God and the good care I received, I got better. The baby was the dearest little boy with big gray eyes and the sweetest face. When he got older he had lovely brown curly hair. We had great joy from that baby. He was so beautiful, so smart and so loving. I cannot say enough about this little boy. When he was about five years old, he used to go along with Allan and Itzie to Hebrew School. One day he came home and said, "Mommie, I can ^{learn} leaun." "What can you leaun," I asked him. "Chomish", he answered me. "Well, leaun for me," ~~so~~ he recited the whole first chapter of the Bible and translated it. It was so smart that I just loved him too much for he was not

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destined for this world. He died that year at the age of nearly six years. That was the first grief that entered my life. I mourned him very deeply - for more than I can tell. Even now when I think of him I get a great pang. I have had such great losses; I have had such great heart aches. I really do not know why I have been so, shall I say, punished, or why I have been so tried. I have been taught to say, "Thy Will Be Done". I say it, but at the same time I say why, why? Well, to go back to the time when I still had my little boy, he was my fourth baby. The work of my family increased, the demands on my time became greater and greater. It was at this time that I had another wedding in my home.

My husband's cousin who came from New York had two daughters. They were very poor but ~~would be~~ ^{would be} ~~were not beholden to anyone.~~ The older girl became acquainted with a nice young man. ~~As~~ They had no father ~~they~~ ^{and} depended very much on my husband, so we invited them to our home. In the course of the evening, Pa asked the young man what his intentions were. Dave very frankly said that he wanted to marry the girl, so it did not take very long to arrange matters. The next time they came to our house I had served some nice refreshments and then the engagement was announced. Some months later the wedding took place in our home. There I was with four children, all of them almost babies, making a nice wedding in my home. I had only one maid and she was a darling girl. We cooked and baked and prepared everything. My maid and I worked very hard. I wanted the bride and her sister to help but when I looked around to see what the bride was doing and she was nowhere to be found. I became cross. Where was Rachel? She was in

the parlor with the door closed. She was praying. I said, "Here put that book down and lend a hand, that will really do more good than your prayer. Tomorrow you can pray all you want to, just now I need some help." I have always said that everything we do teaches us to do the next thing better. That was how it was with me. This wedding was very fine, the couple were very happy. They moved to little Washington. They prospered and raised a nice family. Dave Gesner made a very good husband, ~~not very charitable, but wellbehaved~~. I am very friendly with their oldest daughter who married the son of an old friend of mine. They are a very handsome couple with two children, very well-to-do but very tight. They do not know the joy of charity. Too bad, for they could do so much to help others. I am very fond of them, but I can not help but find fault with them. I met Rachel just lately and she asked me why I do not like her. I laughed and said, "I did not say I do not like you." She insisted that I tell her what she did for me to dislike her, which was foolish. We were at a funeral of a dear old friend, a woman with whom I had been friends with for more than sixty-five years, since I was a little girl. I said, "This is not the time nor the place to talk about such things, I am here to honor my friend with whom I have been friends since I was a child, so please let me be. Some day when I see you, you and I will have a heart to heart talk." One thing I am very proud of in my life is that once I make a friend I keep that friend for always, as with this dear old soul. I was really playmates with her sister-in-law. I used to come to their house as they came to my home. This dear old friend

was a bride then. She became very fond of me and I liked her very much.

Before I was married she had moved to Braddock. Years later we renewed our friendship and kept it up all these years until she died. I went to her while she was ill. She always told me not to mourn for my dead for she always said living troubles are much worse. My poor dear friend was a great sufferer. She had a very large family of girls and boys but she had great trouble from them. So when she so thankfully closed her eyes in everlasting sleep, we, all her friends, felt that at last she was at rest.

refutation

Well after my fourth baby was about a year old, I became ill.

~~I was sick for a bout a year.~~ I went to my doctor and he told me it would take about a year to get better. I did all I could to get well

but at the end of the year I was as sick as at the beginning. ~~The~~ *To make matters* worse ~~of the matter was,~~ one day when I was complaining, my husband, who was the kindest man, said, "Oh Annie, you make me sick. You are always complaining." That same day my dear mother said the same thing in other words ^a - ~~that I made her tired with my complaints.~~

Then I thought I must do something. I went to my doctor and told him what my mother and my husband said to me. I also told him that I have four children and that I had much to do. I did not have time to be sick and that I did not want to become a chronic sick person and that I must either get well or I must die. I started to cry.

Dr. Blumberg looked at me and said, "Well, Mrs. Davis, you know I could kill you quick, but it takes time to get well. You will just have to be patient, but this I will say, you will never be a chronic sick person. You give me about six weeks at home, just as you would give if I would put you in a hospital, for intensive treat-

ment, I am sure you will get well." I did not want to go to a hospital for I had four babies, a household and many demands on my time. So we made a hospital of my home in my own room. My husband bought me a beautiful couch ^{since} ~~as~~ I did ~~not~~ have to lie in bed all the time. Everything was arranged ~~for~~ ^{for} my comfort ~~to make me well~~. That evening after the consultation with another very fine doctor, I was served in my room for I was not to go up or down the stairs. I saw that my little children were not so bright nor playful. The next day I sent for the doctor and when he rang the bell I ran down the stairs. I forgot all about my being sick. I forgot all my instructions. All I thought of was my little children. When the doctor saw me open the door for him, he said, "Mrs. Davis, you were not to leave your room but here you are at the door. What is the matter?" "Oh doctor, my little ones are so sick, I don't know what to do." He examined the children and said that they had the measles. Right at first they were very sick, especially my little girl. It took about three week, but thank God they got better, but I never did get that intensive treatment. I did study myself - I did try to help myself. I ailed for another year. At the doctor's advice I went to the country. I loved it there. I have been longing for a home in the country ever since, but somehow that was one thing I never accomplished. I became such a matured woman. I was no more a petted young wife. I became a woman of responsibility, running my home on a very proud scale and doing so many things. ~~I sewed, I made fine hand-~~ work, ~~I crocheted fine lace - I have some of this lace in my scrap bag -~~ I preserved fruit, ~~I made wine, I put up pickles and sauerkraut, I baked,~~

~~I cooked and I entertained friends.~~

At this time I made friends with a young bride. She was a beautiful woman, a stranger in our city. We really loved to be together, ~~even and~~ though she was a bride I was not much older because I married so much younger ~~than she~~. I helped her to make the layette for her baby but my poor friend never saw her baby because she died at child birth. Hers was the first Caesarean birth that I had heard of. The doctors and hospital did all that could be done but it was no use. Her baby lived. I understand he is a very fine man. I mourned this friend very deeply.

omit

I became so well known that I was called on to do many things. I was the treasurer of the Fund that the women raised for the Holy Ark of the Beth Hamedish Hagadol. ^{Hamedish} I always helped with the Balls and suppers that we gave for that Shule. The Talmud Torah took much of my time. Sending sick people to different hospitals was one of my duties and this is how it ^{started} ~~came~~ about. One day my dear mother said to me, "Annie, when Shabbos comes, I must go to Rabbi Mayer to ask him to send a poor man to the hospital." "Why mother you can't do that, Rabbi Mayer lives way over in Allegheny. How can you walk to his house with your ^{poor} feet?" "Well the man is very sick. He must have good attention. His poor wife can't do all that is required for he is burned. They live in an alley, they have no good bed and he is suffering very much." "All right, Mother, if you say so I will ^{car} ~~take~~ him to the hospital ^{to} ~~the~~ day and you need not walk so far." I went to Dr. Snively, who was on the West Penn

Hospital staff, and told him about ^{the} ~~this~~ ^{within} poor man and ~~in~~ a few hours he was in the West Penn Hospital. ~~He really was very badly scalded.~~

Another case was of a young mother ^{whose child needed an operation.} ~~who wanted her child operated.~~

I knew this woman very well, she was one of the first cases whom I ^{in Childbirth} ~~assisted with her first baby.~~ ~~This was her second child.~~ When she told me all the details, I said, "I will see what I can do." I went to Dr. Snively again. I explained the case to him. ^{He said me the operation} ~~He said it looks to~~ ^{was} ~~no like~~ a very delicate ^{one} ~~operation~~ and ^{that the} ~~the~~ baby might not live through ^{survive it} ~~the operation.~~ ^{I repeated his warning to the mother and that} ~~I told the mother that.~~ I would not help her take her baby to the hospital for it is almost sure death. But this mother was so frantic she went to Dr. Snively herself and had the operation, ^{performed} but the child died as the doctor said it might. I was very glad that it was not through my hands that the baby died. Some time after, this woman became pregnant. As her time drew near I went to see her. I found her cleaning her house, making everything ready for her confinement. I saw she had a bad cold so I sent the doctor to her. He came and prescribed for her and told her to be very careful. She was confined in a few days after I was with her. At the birth the baby was fine. The birth was not hard but the cough returned and a day or two later she developed pneumonia. We did all that could be done. I stayed with her for days. I had the doctor come two and sometimes three times a day. He told me at once that she was going to die. I stayed with her all night, I could not leave her. At one time she opened her eyes and said, "Do not leave me Mrs. Davis." I held her up in my arms to make her breathing easier and towards morning I saw she was worse. I became terrified that she might die on my shoulders so I called one of the

neighbors. We stayed with her until the end. Her husband in the meantime had been sleeping. He said he did not know what to do so he slept until she died. After that trying night I still had the work to arrange for the funeral. I ~~also~~ paid all the expenses, ^{because} her husband had nothing, ~~so could not pay~~. Well here were two babies and no mother. But there are good people in this world. One childless woman took the little baby with the hope that the father would let her have the child. She kept him for some weeks, but the foolish father would not part with the boy ^{and} ~~so~~ he took him away. There is quite a story connected with this child. The little girl was taken by another woman. ~~Arranged with them until after the Shevah.~~ The little girl was no trouble. She got along very well and grew up to be a very fine looking girl. The infant was different, ~~he~~ was a puny little baby. His father found a woman who nursed him along with her own baby. She kept him for many years. This child gave us a great deal of trouble, but as I said that is another story which I may write about for it has many sides to it, some of it is beautiful, some very sad, some troublesome and some pathetic, - a long, long story.

Well as I said, I really did not know myself. I grew in understanding and in knowledge of every kind. My family responsibilities taught me. My willingness to do things taught me. I kept up my reading. I even taught my foreign girls to talk and some to read and write English. In connection with this teaching, I well remember that even though I myself had only about four years of formal education, yet when I was about seventeen years old, ~~at~~ about 1882, there was a great influx of Russian Jews from Russia. Pittsburgh received her share of these immigrants.

omit

I met some very fine men at the place where I worked. These men were double my age with high education. Some were engineers, some doctors of medicine and some were of other professions. They knew how to read and write but they did not know how to speak properly, nor how to pronounce the spoken words. So I, who never studied formal grammar, taught these men how to speak English. I always spoke English very well without an accent, just like a native born. They were very grateful. Only one or two of these men remained in Pittsburgh. One was Dr. Spiro, the other Dr. Finkelparl's brother. He was a druggist. I have always been very proud of my long friendships. I was friends with these men all my life - they were very grateful.

Here I must go back to my first home where we lived for thirteen years. In the beginning the house was fine and large enough. It was in good condition but when the first owners moved out, I saw that I would have to do a great deal to put the house in the condition that it should be in. So Pa said if you want to fix up, you can do so. I can not help you much but I will get you a man for some of the work. Pay him and have him do what you want. Seeing my disappointment, Pa said, " You know my dear, while I would be helping you to save a few dollars I may lose one or two hundred dollars in business. So let me attend to my business and you attend to your household." I saw the wisdom of his remark so I did not bother him any more. I went down town and bought beautiful gold wallpaper for my parlor, blue and white for my dining room, silver and blue for our room and more modest paper for the other rooms. My kitchen was painted green and my bathroom a sort of salmon color. How I knew what to buy and how to select the different

Omit

Omit

patterns, I do not know, but the result was very fine. We furnished the house very well. Pa bought very fine Bisclous carpets. Our hall was also beautifully papered. We had a fine English carpet in the hall and stairs with brass binders. All in all we had a lovely home. I had no sooner finished fixing my home when my reputation as a hospitable person followed me to the country where I had a cousin. He came to me and asked me to let him, his wife and family come to our house for over Yom Tov. For the first time in my life I refused to take in any one for I knew that it would be for over a month. He had six children and I had my mother with me and my husband's brother. I had two little children and I simply could not have a whole family on my hands for a month. My cousin got very cross with me. He said, "Remember, I will do you." "What can you do if the Lord is with me. Now be reasonable, you know when Barney could help you he did, but this is too hard for me to do." "Well, I think you are right." So we parted friends and were friends to the end of time. After that experience I knew I was growing up.

Omit

While we lived in this home, the Beth Hamedish Hagodal Synagogue was built. I took great joy in that building. When the committee came for money, my husband gave his share, as much as any man in the congregation. He also bought two seats and also laid out the money for the expense to bring over a Rabbi from the old country. This Rabbi was a cousin of Pa's. How the congregation knew there was such a Rabbi to be gotten, I never knew, but he was elected even without us knowing him. He was elected for two years. The Rabbi was a very fine gentleman. He was not very happy here and might have left much sooner.

but he dearly loved my husband, so he stayed. We learned a lot from him. Though he himself was very religious, yet he was very tolerant of weakness. He told us many things. He told us what was right and what was wrong in religion. He made us realize the beauty and holiness of our Torah. I learned a lot from him. He well understood that business had to be conducted on the Sabbath, still that was no reason that we let anything go. My mother and my husband went to Shule every Sabbath. I would only go once in a while but our Friday night services were always very beautiful. My home was very kosher. We always observed all our holidays. We never had a Seder on Pesach that we did not have a stranger at our table. For more than twenty-five years during Pa's lifetime, we always had real strangers at our table. One time ^{it was} a stranger from Shule, another time it was some one from the old country, some were fine and some not so fine. We always had our own people with us. I never had a meal alone with my husband for years, infact until we went to Atlantic City one year, years after we were married. It really made us feel very happy. One Pesach eve Papa came home from Shule and sheepishly said, "Annie, do you know who I invited for Seder? Mr. Golding." He was to us and to others the crazy Schusmul. When mother heard she said, "Oh you big Jombo, why did you do that. He will disturb our table." Pa was a little conscious stricken but I said it will be all right. Sure enough he was just fine. He had no fault to find. In fact he was so pleased that he said he never sat at a more beautiful table nor a more beautifully conducted service. This was the way our life was until Papa passed away. After Pa passed away, being left with ten little children, the baby was four years old, my

Shule

little boy Bennett was seven years old, Albert was about ten, Maurice twelve, Jacob fourteen, Max about sixteen and so on, I can truthfully say I did not know how I did it. I think it was the highstandard we set up for ourselves which made me go ahead just as father would have us do, so I did.

To go back to our first home and our work in our synagogue. In that thirteen years that we lived there, I grew to thank God for the growth of my mind and character. I became know^{as} Mrs. Barnett Davis. My husband was a good member of our *Shule*, so I also became a good member, though at the time we had no ladies auxiliary, no^r sisterhood, but the women did do a lot. Before all this, at the time that a fine fellow citizen, Mr. J. M. Gusky, whom my husband knew very well, died. His wife, Mrs. Gusky gave twenty thousand dollars to establish an old Aged Home and Orphanage ^{on} for Children. Land was bought ~~way~~ ^{house} out Perrysville Road. ~~There~~ a very fine ~~home~~ ^{house} was built and in due time there was a ~~House, or rather~~ a dedication of the Home. I had developed a fine bump of curiosity so I asked my husband to take me out to this dedication. There was quite a crowd. ~~There~~ I knew some of the people as did my husband. ~~We contri-uted our share to this charity,~~ ^{The share we contributed was} as much as some of the rich people there. The women singled me out, ~~for~~ ^{and} right there I became a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Home, ~~where~~ ^{and} I did what I could to help along. My husband was a member of the Men's organization but very inactive. I on the other hand became active at once. They had very restrictive laws and rules. Sometimes I would become right cross at their foolish rulings. In this way I became known and before long I was elected on the Board of the Ladies Auxiliary. I have been a member of the Board for many years. One time I made application for

three children whose mother died. They were not so poor but they did not have any one to take care of them. ~~As~~ ^{a certain number of} I was told by the committee that if I brought in ~~so many~~ ^{so many} members they would take the children in. I ~~thought that was~~ ^{knew this to be} the wrong method but as the children had to be taken care of, I went out with my friend, Mrs. J. N. Wolk, and in one afternoon we got thirty-six new members. Oh, I did a lot more than that for the Guskay Orphanage, ~~as it is known at this time~~ ^{for it}, but that was my first piece of work. There were a grand set of men and women connected with that home at that time. They had the same struggle for money that all organizations have who do not belong to a Federation or Community Fund. In those years we had no such organizations. I often wonder which is the better way.

Before long I belonged to a number of Societies - The United Hebrew Charities, ^{yes} The Council of Jewish Women, The Council School, The Daughters of Rachel and others, besides helping in an ^{voluntary} official manner, the Shule and Talmud Torah. Our Shule was moved from downtown to Washington Street. There the congregation built a very beautiful ^{building} ~~Shule~~. My dear mother and her friend, Mrs. Bernstein, were appointed to buy a ~~very~~ handsome curtain for the Holy Ark, which they did. But before that the women made a collection for the Holy Ark. We ^{raised} ~~got together~~ eighteen hundred dollars - ~~of which~~ I was the Treasurer and Mrs. J. N. Wolk the Secretary. I was very happy when I brought the money to the men. In later years as ~~President of the B'nai Israel Sisterhood, I paid ten thousand dollars~~ ~~for the same honor. I will tell about that at a later time. Now I must~~ ~~tell about the time I still lived on Washington Street. By that time~~ ~~I became very well known. So all at once~~ ^{By this time being well known} I was asked to organize a

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society for a Jewish Hospital. I thought the man was crazy. "We do not need a Jewish Hospital," I said. "I ^{don't} ~~do not~~ know anything about hospitals. I am a woman who has a large family, ^H ~~so~~ how can I undertake such work?" This man persisted. He said that after due deliberation, a number of men thought that Mrs. Davis would be the only one who could accomplish such a thing. I said, "My dear man, you do not know what you are talking about, nor do I. Let me think this over. I will want to study this matter. I want to find out if what you say is true." He had told me many things and with that I closed the argument. He left but came back again the next day, so I said, "I will see what I can do." I will tell of this later.

As I have said before, my good man was easily discouraged. We got along very well up to the time of 1892 and 1893, then we felt the first sting of hard times. By that time we had four children. We had learned to live very liberally. All at once this stopped and times got very bad. My poor husband became despondent. I had a hard time with him. He kept saying with a growing family, with everything going out and nothing coming in, ^{he didn't} ~~I do not~~ know what to do. It was my business to keep up his moral. My one thought was to keep him from discouragement. I would say to him, "You know, my dear, we still have the money we brought over from the old country. I am not asking you for a palace nor the carriage with two horses that I always wanted! Don't worry, we will get along somehow." I learned to cut down expenses in every way. ^{He cut down on meals.} ~~when serving~~ ~~all of our meals.~~ I did not buy any clothes. I used up everything I had. My table linen went down, my bed clothes wore out and even our underwear was worn out. I bought no hats nor dresses, neither did my husband buy himself suits. ^{But} There was one thing I did not stint on and that was my charity.

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later

One day two women came for a donation for some poor family. I gave them my usual gift. My husband saw this ^{and} ~~so he~~ said, "Annie, you will have to cut this out, we can not afford ~~this~~." "I will cut anything you say, but remember once you gave me the privilege to give what my heart and mind prompted me to give and now is the time for me to use that privilege. If we are hard up, how much more are these poor people who have no reserve? So please take heart, the good God will help. These hard times can not last forever. All will be well with us again." After two years things began to pick up. My dear husband was known as a very honest man ^{and} ~~this~~ helped us a lot, ~~as~~ his creditors did not press him for money, ^{in fact} when he offered them their goods back at a loss, everyone wrote him and ~~they~~ said, "Don't worry Davis, keep the merchandise until times get better. If by any chance any one presses you for money, let us know and we will send you the money." This was a great comfort to him. No one pressed us and we just muddled along. I did what I could to encourage him. I visited some of my friends, merchants on Fifth Avenue. I would ask them ^{about} ~~how~~ business. Mr. Simon Ables was one of these men. "Not so good", he would say. Then I would go to Mr. J. N. Wolk and he said the same thing, as well as a good many others. Then when my good man would say, "Well, Annie, I guess I am a Jonah", I would tell him what this man and that man said about business. We talk of hard times. ^{to day} ~~to day~~. What does this generation know ^{of} ~~what~~ hard times? ^{to day} ~~to day~~. Why ^{they were} ~~the~~ people spend more in a day on non essentials than we did in a month. ~~It was~~ hard times, the people did without. If too hard pressed, their friends and neighbors helped them. There were no Family Welfares, no Federation, no Social Centers and no free agencies.

I oft times think it was better then. Now we make our young people soft by providing everything for them. They ^{Cair} ~~can not~~ even think for themselves, but in times past it was different. We were sturdy. We knew we just had to get along, so we got along. ~~We~~ ^{he} had this for two years. Then my husband said, "If I ^{Cair} ~~can not~~ sell diamonds, I will try to sell something else." So he went to New York and bought a lot of fine novelty diamond jewelry. He bought gold bugs, diamond studded lizzards, turquoise, rubies and all kinds of precious and semi-precious stones, and as the tide had already turned, he commenced to earn money. The very first things that Pa bought ~~for us~~ was a great stack of underwear for the children, for me and for himself. In all a bill of seventy-six dollars. It was then I learned that my husband did not know everything for I would have bought much better. He knew his business, he knew diamonds, but he did not know family needs nor anything about household. So as I grew older I realized it was my job to ^{shop for} ~~look after~~ my family. I never let him shop for us very much again. He had made too many mistakes in household management.

Time went on, money matters adjusted themselves. But what is money? There are greater losses than money. I had many visitations but the most heartbreaking was the illness and death of my first little Jacob. He was a grand boy. He grew so beautiful, so good, so smart. He would wait for his brothers to come home from school, then he would come to me, "Ma, I need three lunches, I have to go to Chader." "But why three lunches?" "Well, one for Allan, one for Itz and one for me." So I told the girl to make the lunches for him. One day he came home and said, "Mommie, I can leaun." "What can you leaun". "I can leaun Chomish." I said, "Leaun for me, dear." He did, he recited the whole first chapter of Genesis until and there was evening and there was morning the first day. He looked so dear with his brown curls shaking

repetition

repetition

his great grey blue eyse shining, his whole body so alive. We all loved him, he was such a loveable child, even though I had another baby by that time, still he was the most lovable. I took the family out to the country that summer to be out of the heat of the city and there where it was like a paradise, my dear boy took sick. I called the country doctor right away. He said it was nothing. The child might have eaten something and he will be all right. I did everything the doctor ordered but my boy did not get better. So I said to my husband that I must have another doctor. My husband thought the child was too sick to be taken, so I went myself after getting a letter from the other doctor to my doctor. Dr. Blumberg said that if it is as the doctor writes, he is giving the right treatment, but from what you say there is something else the matter. "Well, doctor, you must come with me at once." He could not come until after lunch. I went right back. I was about an hour late. My boy was just the same. My husband and mother could not see why I worried so, generally it was the other way, they worried and I did the work. This time I worried. At last the doctor came. He just took one look at the child and pronounced it pneumonia. I was struck dumb. Could it be possible that he got that way while I was away. No, no, he has had it right along. We called in the other doctor and he admitted that he made a mistake. We started other treatment. Strange as it may seem he got over the penumonia but he could not get better. Other complications set in. He got poppurahamori and his kidneys went bad so the doctor told me to take him home. I brought him home and we were all happy that we could bring him home, but he did not last long.

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I had other doctors but it was no use. My boy died in my arms. He was so beautiful, so innocent, and so sweet. I mourned for him for twenty-five years. It was only when I had so much to mourn that I, in a measure, forgot him. No, I did not forget him, but I had so many fresh wounds that this first hurt was already grown over. I did not feel it so keenly. Since that time I sustained such great losses and many losses. I pray God that he spare me from this time on and let me die first. I want my living children to follow me to my grave as an escort. I do not want my children to grieve for me. I want them to know that I have lived a full life, a life full of happiness with my husband and children. While my husband lived I had everything. When he passed away I felt as if one-half of me was dead. My husband died at the age of fifty-five. I was forty-seven and a half years old. He left me ten children and now I have only six. I lost them when they were in the prime of life. My dear daughter Freda was thirty-three years old. What a grand daughter, so loving, so kind and so helpful. She was married. She was a beautiful singer and through her help and influence she helped her cousin to become a fine singer. At this time I can not write about all the terrible losses I have had. I will have to take these up at another time. It is too hard.

Death of Little Fred - here.

~~I must go back to the process of growing up for I always felt that we are never fully grown.~~ After the Panic of 1892-1893, we again began to prosper. After the first year of mourning for my little boy, I again started my active life. We still lived on Washington Street, even though the house had become crowded for us. I enlarged the house. I made two rooms on the third floor but still it was crowded for us and still my husband did not want to move. Oh that house! We lived there

thirteen years. It certainly was a great institution of learning for me. ~~And not only in community work~~ It was there I learned to do the many, many public acts in the Columbia Council of Jewish ^{women}, in the Guskys, in the United Hebrew Relief, in the Beth Hamedush Hagodah, in the Talmid Torah and in the various private charities. ~~and it~~ ^{that} was there I had my first house guest. My brother lived in New York. In the summer time he went to Coney Island for business. He could not have his daughter there so he sent her to me for the summer. She made it very hard for me. I have often wished that this had never happened for she was the first cause of unhappiness for us. I did what I could for her. I gave her ^{her} first music lessons on the piano. She was a natural born musical child ~~and but~~ she also was a very spoiled and willful child. Being an only ~~child~~ ^{one}, she did not know how to fit herself in with the other children. She was always wanting something. All at once she wanted a goat so her father sent her a great big Rocky Mountain goat. I had my hands full with that goat. Everybody was afraid of him. He was so big and wild ^{that} when he stood up on his hind legs he towered ~~way~~ over me. Still I had to feed and care for him. I was the only one he would not buck. The rest of the family were dreadfully afraid of him. I kept him one summer and as the cold weather came on and I had no place to house him, ^{had to find} ~~so I found~~ him a home in the country. After that I had a number of dogs who made my life miserable. I always had something to add to my responsibilities. Later my husband got the idea to build in my beautiful back garden which we had in our back yard. It really was the pride of the neighborhood. There were no gardens in that whole street. The boys who went to a Hebrew teacher next door. would stop

to look over the fence at the flowers, but they never touched them, just looked. In after years these same boys grown into manhood told me how much my garden meant to them. But we built three little houses there. We had three tenants - one was a very nice elderly couple, the second was a ^(Sigel) young family with three children. ^{who} They were very helpless and very poor but modest and undemanding. My ~~car~~ husband was so sorry for them that he used all his influence and got a position for Mr. Sigel as a ^{Shames (sp?)} ~~Schames~~ in our Shule. Then they got along very well. The third family had one boy. The ^{father} ~~man~~ worked and made about \$35 a week. They really were better off than the others but they were the most miserable because the man drank and the woman was dirty and unkempt. The result was poverty and misery. One day this poor woman ran into my home and cried that her husband was beating her. Pa went over to see what was the matter. Her husband showed my husband how his wife was serving breakfast for him. It seems ^{that} the day before she had made veal chops for his supper. She used the same plate with the stale flour on it from the night before and served his breakfast on it, so he took up the plate and threw it at her. "You ^{you'd} would do the same if your wife would serve you like that." ^{he answered Pa.} At the same time, ^{while} she was telling me about ~~her~~ husband, I said, ^{she} ~~not~~ ^{I don't know} knowing anything about the breakfast, ^{but I do know} "You know your husband did not beat you. You beat yourself." "What are you saying Mrs. Davis. How can I beat myself? Look where the plate hit me which my husband threw at me." "If the plate was clean, the table set nice and the breakfast made appetizing, everything would be well; ~~but~~ I know how you do things, so he threw things at you," ^{I answered.} "It ^{it's} ~~is~~ all right for you to say this, you have a maid to do the work for you, but I have to do everything myself." I thought I would drive

a lesson home to her and maybe I did. ~~as I will tell of her later.~~

"Yes," I said, "I have a maid but I have a large household, I have five children, my mother and others. You only have one big boy and three rooms. If you stayed at home and took care of it as I take care of it ~~as I take care~~ of mine, there is no reason why your three rooms should not look as clean as mine - not so rich or so fine, but just as clean." It was then my husband came in. He told me ^{what the trouble was} ~~what the matter~~ was and ^{she} felt quite ashamed. They moved out at the end of the year at the request and expense of my husband. Not only ~~they~~ ^{they} did not pay their rent, for more than eleven months, but my good man gave them a months rent to pay in advance to where they were moving. I did not see her for a long time but later it was she that made me ashamed. I must tell about this later. I learned a lot from the families on that neat lot. One was this shiftless family, one was a poor respectful family with a helpless mother and one was a rather learned family. On the other side lived a family whose husband made his living by teaching Hebrew. Next door lived a family whom I knew since childhood. They were nice people but I could not learn from them nor could I teach them. But I was to them all a very much admired and respected person. My husband also was highly respected. Somehow no one ever tried to call us by our given names. It was always Mr. Davis or Mrs. Davis thought we had known each other many years. So when this man came to me to ask me to organize a society for a Jewish Hospital, he came to one well known and highly respected. But what did I know about organizing a society for a Jewish Hospital. I was too busy with my family, with my private charities, with my Shule and with my modest social duties. I do not know anything about organi-

repetition

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zations. This man said, "Your friends told me that if you could do all the things you are doing, you can do this." He spoke so earnestly that I could not refuse him. I said, "Give me a few days time to think this over." I thought this matter over. I spoke to husband about it. I spoke to my mother about it. They were both very encouraging but I still thought I should have more expert advice. I thought I would go to my doctor just as I would go to a dress-maker if I needed a dress or to a shoe maker if I needed a pair of shoes. I called on my doctor and told him what was required of me. I was so surprised when my doctor, who was a very busy man, said to me, "Wait until I attend to these patients." He made short work of them and came back to me. He asked what was on my mind. "Nothing is on my mind, but a Mr. Levin wants me to organize a society for a Jewish Hospital." Dr. Blumberg launched into this subject and I thought he never would stop. His last words were, "Go ahead Mrs. Davis and may God bless you." I was very much surprised for I never thought of him as a God fearing man, rather a man without religion. I was not satisfied with one man's opinion so I went to Dr. Saperstein. This man spoke just like Dr. Blumberg. If they had agreed beforehand, they could not have expressed themselves so much alike. I thought I must try a third man so I went to Dr. ^{M.A.} ~~A.M.~~ Goodstone. He also said that it would be a wonderful thing if we, the Jewish people of Pittsburgh, could have a Jewish Hospital. I came home and talked it over with my husband and my mother again. They said, "By all means go ahead." I must say that they made it very encouraging for me to go ahead, in fact my ~~dear~~ mother said, "You do this and I ^(as always) will help you with the baby," for at that time I had a little baby.

She Had a good

He is my seventh child, so you see that was why I had to see all these men in one day. I was quite upset as I myself did not think we needed a Jewish Hospital. It was only after some years that I found out that we ^{did need one} needed a Jewish Hospital for many reasons, ^{and} not only to take care of the sick. We needed a Jewish Hospital to take care of our Jewish doctors. At that time, in 1898, our young professional men were not so welcome on the staffs of the other hospitals as they are now. Then we were receivers, now we are contributors. It was only after our own hospital was established that our physicians were allowed to practice in the other hospitals and send patients to them. ^{then} ~~Also very soon~~ our Jewish men became staff men in the other hospitals. I am very happy to be able to say that our men have established a very fine reputation as good men and to day they are all accepted as interns in all the hospitals. Well, you know the Jewish saying is that when two or three men say you are drunk then you must go to sleep. That was the way with me. When these three good men told me to go ahead, I felt that I must go ahead, ^{and} still I never dreamed that I would ^{play} such a prominent part in so great a work. ^{Mr. Levin} When ~~this man~~ came again, I said I would call a number of women together to see what they would say and do. We met at the home of Mr. Bliss. Seventeen came, some of us were young and some were old. We talked ^{the} ~~this~~ matter over. One of the women said we must go to see ^(pres.?) Mr. Lippman and ask him if we should do such a thing. The way she said this made us all a little cross, especially so when she said ~~that she would go and ask him if you should start such an organization.~~

I said, "What do you mean by saying you, are you not with us?" She said, "I do not know if I am or not." "Well then, you can not

~~represent us if you are not with us.~~ Besides, *Why* should we ask anyone's permission to do such charity as healing the sick." We knew that there was no such organization in our city, ~~and~~ *the* women agreed to start, but first we ~~should~~ *wanted* think the matter over. We adjourned to meet again in about two weeks. The two weeks soon passed and we met in a room in the old House of Shelter. There was such a crowd. The room was packed and everybody talked. The noise was so great that one did not hear what the other one said. Unthinkingly I called the women to order. *I told them we wanted* I said ~~we will~~ *we will* never get *the way we were standing and that* anywhere ~~this way.~~ The first thing to do ~~was~~ *so that* to elect a temporary chairman and a temporary secretary, ~~then~~ *then* each one could express ~~them-~~ *himself* selves singly. They all approved and before I knew what had happened, I was elected chairman of the first meeting with Mrs. J. N. Wolk the secretary. I protested that I did not know anything about conducting meetings. I never was a chairman, but since I ~~corrected~~ *had* *corrected* them so sensibly, ~~I should~~ *they insisted that I* be chairman. Well, we started the business of the meeting. Should we or should we not organize for such a purpose? Without one word of dissention they all agreed that we organize. Right away my friend, Mrs. J. N. Wolk, named it The Hebrew Ladies Hospital and Society. The dues were to be \$5.00 a year, payable yearly, semi-annually, quarterly or weekly at the rate of ten cents a week. In fact that had already been done as the older women collected at the first meeting \$1.70 from the first 17 women that were present. This seemed to meet with everybody's approval. At this meeting there were 43 women so we collected \$4.30. Their idea was that once we started to pay dues, we would be sure to organize.

Hospital Work

We called another meeting in the next two weeks at the Beth Hamedush, Hagodal. Through the interest of Mrs. Israel ^{Raphael (?) Pappal} ~~Rappel~~, who seemed to take on herself the membership work, we had a group of about 150 women. I never saw so many women at a meeting. As I was the temporary chairman, I called for order. The first discussion was what ^{language} tongue we should use. I, of course, said English as I did not know Yiddish, nor did a great many of my friends. After a little debate we decided to use English ~~as the speaking tongue and our books and correspondence to be in English.~~ After that was settled I said, "Now, ladies, we must elect our permanent officers. They all agreed. ~~that was right.~~ So before one could say Jack Robinson, I heard from one side and another side and from all around ^{that} Mrs. Davis should be ~~the~~ president. I nearly fainted. I protested but the clamor was so great that I said, "All right, all right." So I was named president, which office I held for twenty years. It was with great difficulty that I finally gave up my office. In that twenty years I had many experiences - some good, some very ^{sad} ~~sad~~, some laughable and some very pathetic - all very human. In that twenty years I was a very busy woman. First you know I had a lovely family of six children, ^{having lost one, and} I ~~really had~~ ~~seven but I had already gone through the agony of losing a fine boy.~~

My children always came first. I never neglected my family for my public work. I ~~sort of~~ worked out a schedule ^{first} ~~where~~ I attended my household duties. Then I attended to my organization. My first great duty was to make arrangements with the different hospitals in our city. Then I was busy with the sick people who came to me for help. I well remember how I made arrangements with the West Penn Hospital superintendent

for the patients we would send to them. We would pay half rate for
all our patients. Soon we received a letter from Mr. Howell, Mrs. ^{Reep - y West Penn}
Goodstone and I went to see him and he said, "Why ladies, I never
thought there would be so many Jewish patients. Where do you get
them all. I don't think I can live up to the arrangements that I made
with you." "Well now, Mr. Howell, these people are sick. ^{.. we answered.} "What is the
difference who they are and where they come from." They are sick, they
need medical attention and it is the duty of the West Penn Hospital to
give them ~~that~~ attention. " We talked and I explained the work of
our Society. First it was to take care of the sick poor. Second
it was our hope to raise enough money to build a Jewish Hospital.
He became very much interested. He gave us some advice and then said
that he would stick by the arrangements that we made. That is, we
would investigate every case, then we would pay the half rate of the
ward. We then made the same arrangement with the Passavant, The Mercy,
The St. Frances, The Allegheny General and in fact in every hospital in
our city, and in many cases out of the city. Our work was very broad.
To satisfy a patient we would send him where he wanted to go. Later we
found sick who had to be taken care of at home. So we established a
home sick fund. ^{Reep} ~~with which we helped the sick at home.~~ My treasurer of
the Home Sick Fund would say, " Mrs. Davis, you are all wrong but your
wrong is in the right place." "How come in the wrong or right place?"
A bed with spring and mattress is ^{as} ~~very~~ necessary to a sick person, ^{as} ~~just~~
like medicine. The sick committee recommended this bed and also
blankets. This poor man was sick. He was disabled and bedridden, he
needed these things. So I did say your right is bigger than your wrong.

Hospital Girl

I had wonderful women to work with. What I recommended they carried out. The first six months we held back from any expenditures. We saved all the money and worked on the membership so that once we did start our work we would have enough money to work with. Our membership grew fast, first it was 150 then it was 300 and then it was 500. One day our membership had a bright idea how to get members. "How", we all asked. "We have to go to Shule. It will soon be Succoth, so our president should go to Shule on that day. There she could get a great many women to join." "But that means I have to get up about three o'clock in the morning." "Well, what of that, we need members, don't we?" So the president and her secretary went to Shule early in the morning. It really was the very first time in my life that I went so early, also the last time. I had babies so I was exempt, but my dear husband and my mother always went. But for members I went. I got the members all right. After we started our work we were paying for our sick, we always needed money. We started various ways of raising money. I have many amusing stories to tell of the things that happened during the money raising affairs. We were arranging to have a picnic at Calhoun Park so a committee was appointed to go to see this park. We had no machines in those days so we went by street car. Of course the president had to go along. Something happened to our streetcar when we were between two hills. It was getting dark and there we were three young women, for I was young then and city bred, out in the country with the rain coming on and lightning and thunder. I was dreadfully afraid but I kept still. All at once Mrs. Adleman and the other woman got hold of me. "Oh, Mrs. Davis, I am so afraid, so afraid,"

I was scared to death myself at the dark, the men the thunder and the lightning. I had to comfort these two women. I held them in my arms until the car got fixed. How we got home I really do not remember. We did not get to see the grounds, but we brought in a good report. We held our picnic and made several hundred dollars. My friends never stopped telling how brave I was and how I encouraged them. When to tell the truth I was as badly scared as they. At another time we held our picnic at Wildwood Grove. I do not remember much about that affair but I well remember what happened to our treasurer of that affair after it was over. How many times we laughed about it thought at the time it was no laughing matter. Mrs. Ella Alpern, who was the treasurer, tells this story in her own inimitable way. It really is a scream. Well this is the story. Mrs. Alpern got all dressed up in a beautiful silk dress and she wore a large black lace hat. She felt very good. She looked at herself and she was pleased with what she saw so she came to the meeting and everybody admired her. The women who had ticket money came over to pay for them and admire her, for she was young and pretty. We took in about \$300 and were all very much pleased with the result of our picnic. We closed the meeting, ready to plan some other venture. All left but Mrs. Alpern and myself. We were the last to leave the meeting room. There we were walking along very nonchalantly when suddenly my Ella disappeared and I heard a voice from out of the earth, "Save me, save me, save the money, save the money." I realized instantly that my Ella had fallen into the sewer. I never acted quicker in my life. I went down on my knees in the gutter, lifted the cover of the manhole and held her arms up until some men came along and hauled her out. She kept crying all the time to save her and to save

the money. She held on to that money like grim death. She didn't lose a cent, the box was full of small change. We got her out of that sewer and took her across the street to the home of one of our members, Mrs. Himmelblau, thinking that Ella was fainting. She got a bottle of sletzer and squirted it into her face. Well that was the end of me. I started to laugh. I laughed until I cried. I was very nervous so I laughed and cried all at the same time. We have laughed at this episode many, many times. I never did know what happened to that beautiful dress, but anyhow she saved the money. In all the excitement she never lost her hat. After that we did not make many picnics. We ventured out into larger affairs. We gave a grand Ball at the Turner Hall on Forbes Street. It was a grand affair. We made a great deal of money. The work grew by leaps and bounds, so we needed no ney. We became known as an outstanding organization. It was a great education to me and it was also a great education to our modest Jewish women. At that time we had few women's organizations. Our Hospital Aid Society was a pioneer in women's work. I used to talk to the women and encouraged them to come out of the kitchen. I used to tell them that they will be better and abler mothers if they would go out of the home to do something. I have had people say to me, "Why Mrs. Davis, you opened up my brain, I never knew these things before." Yes, my Hebrew Ladies Hospital Aid Society was a great educational institution for there we first learned to do things according to rules as well as to head and heart. It is different now. Now we leave everything to the paid social worker. What does a paid social worker know of the trials and tribulations of a self-respecting poor person. At that time I taught my women to help first

Hospital

and investigate afterwards. I am very happy to be able to say that I was fooled only a very few times. Now the investigation goes on so much that either there is too much given or none at all. Charity these days is very uneven. From our Hebrew Ladies Hospital Aid Society the women graduated into the Council of Jewish Women and many other organizations, both national and local. There are so many organizations now you can hardly count them. I know for at one time I was a member of about thirty-five or forty organizations and many boards. To go back, we were doing so well that one day Rabbi A shinsky came to our meeting and asked me to appoint a committee to take care of the Jewish House of Shelter. He said that we were doing our work so well that he felt if we took hold of this other work we would improve the whole standard of the work. We had such an institution in our city for many years but it was always so badly run. I appointed a committee to take over this institution. I had among my members a young woman, Mrs. Herman Ferguson. I wanted her to be president but said she would rather be secretary as then she could have the whole organization in her hands. The chairman appointed was a good woman but did not know how to conduct an institution, so I found that Mrs. Ferguson was right, she was president and all the officers combined. I and all my women were always ready to help. We did so well that we were recognized as one of the leading Shelter homes in the country. We got so much money that we soon bought our own home. This House of Shelter is still in existence and is still being conducted by the same group of women, a part of the Hebrew Ladies Hospital Aid Society.

I continued as President from year to year. We took care of our Jewish sick in the different hospitals in our city. We still kept in our minds

the ultimate aim of building a Jewish Hospital, so we saved the balance of our money for that purpose. Our members were very enthusiastic. They wanted a hospital. I knew that women alone could not do this great piece of work, so I called in a group of men, starting with my husband, Dr. Albert Blumberg, Mr. Simon Davis, Dr. M. A. Goodstone and others. Mr. Adolph Edlis and Mr. Henry Jackson were among the first also. With these men we organized the Montefiore Hospital Association. Mr. Henry Jackson became chairman, I was elected Vice-chairman, Dr. A. L. Lewin, secretary and my dear husband was elected treasurer. We already had a subscription list of about five thousand dollars. This is how we got that amount pledged. I had called these men into our meeting for the purpose of considering the establishing of this hospital. Dr. Blumberg said he was willing to pledge five hundred dollars if ten other men would pledge a like amount. My husband said, "Why condition your gift that way. Now I am ready to sign up without any condition." I said, "Mr. Davis, do you mean this?" I always called my husband Mr. Davis while I was presiding. He said, "Yes, I mean it." I immediately gave him a pen and subscription list. He signed this subscription list. Then I turned to the doctor, "Now you sign here", and I showed him the second line and without a word he signed. So, that night we had the first \$1,000.00. We all went home elated. Of course, we all knew that we would not build a hospital for one thousand dollars, but it was a start. So it was my duty not only to take care of my Hebrew Ladies Hospital Aid Society, but also to build up the Montefiore Hospital Association.

I tell you it was some work. Here I was with seven children to take care of - my youngest child at that time was my Jacob, God Bless him. He was in his first year. The other children ranging from one year to about fifteen or sixteen years of age. I must say that when I took care of my children I mean just that. I never left them have lunch by themselves and I always was home for dinner. It is true that sometimes I came in fifteen or twenty minutes before, but I always managed to be home before my husband came in. I must say that my husband came first and then my children, who were very helpful to me. I learned how to conduct meetings from my husband, he having been through the offices of the Odd Fellows and also the Knights of Pithius. I learned how to interest my members. I always told them that each member was a member of the membership committee. I remember how I used to tell the women that it is well to leave your families for a little while, and to go out among other women and to leave your kitchen because it would do them good and they would come back refreshed. My talks must have had good affect for the women flocked to our meetings. In the meantime I had to keep in close touch with our men. At first there was not much done by the men, so I induced my husband and my Dr. Blumberg to go out and get the other eight five hundred dollar pledges. They were stumped - they did not know where to go. Remember the hospital idea and ideal was not accepted by our rich Reformed group so this money had to be gotten from our more modest circumstanced people. I gave my husband a list of names where I thought he could get money. Among others, I gave him the name of Bennie Nerman and also Mr. James Cohen. He looked at me and said, " You must not know what you

are saying. Why these men are just getting on their feet so to say."

"I said, "Well, you can try." My dear husband and the doctor went out one day and in one afternoon they received the pledges of twenty-five hundred dollars. It was good to see these two men come to me and tell me what they had accomplished that day. Mr. Cohen's and Mr. Bennie (Herman's was among the first pledges. They went out one other afternoon and got the other pledges. It was beautifully done and I must say that the money pledged was all paid but one. Mr. Simon Ables had moved to NewYork but he sent us the money as promised. Money came flowing in. I was very proud of two sums of money that I received. One was from a little Friendship Society which was disbanding. They had some money in a saving account and they wanted to give this money to some worthy organization. I made a bid for that money and so did Mr. A . Edlis for his society, and so did some other men for their societies. We all spoke and told why we wanted that money. I was asked why we wanted that money. I said, "I really do not need that money as the Hebrew Ladies Hospital Aid Society had enough to get along with, but I wanted their confidence in me that I would only use that money for the Jewish Hospital when we would build it." A vote was taken and the money was voted to me, or I should say to my cause. I was very happy for their expression of confidence in me and their interest in the Jewish Hospital project, for these men who were there became good members and fine workers for the Hospital. We all parted very good friends. The other sum was a greater amount, it was \$650.00. This money was in the hands of a few men who had a sick relief society which was also disbanding. Their idea was to spend the money in dribbles. I went to them and said, "Why dissipate such a sum of money. Give it to

me for the Jewish Hospital. I assure you that I will help any one you might send to us for help. This money will only be used for the building of the Hospital." They gave me that money. It is recorded not only in our books but also on the marble slab in the hospital until this day.

These gifts made me understand that the Jewish people of Pittsburgh really wanted a Jewish hospital. I know I have left out many incidents but how/^{can}I remember all that I had done. I will try to recall some of the things I did as I go along.

I think I will call this the Second Part.